

LISTENING CHALLENGES FACED BY EFL STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC LISTENING CLASSES

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ABSTRACT

The aims of this study were to find out the listening challenges in Academic Listening Classes. The participants of the study were 50 students in Academic Listening Classes, at English Language Education Program, Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana (ED-UKSW) academic year 2016/2017. The data were collected through students' questionnaire and interview. More specifically, the students responded to a statement asking their perspectives towards the listening challenges. In the interview process, the researcher asked 10 participants to provide further clarification of the questionnaire responses. The findings provided some evidence that the speed of speech, unfamiliar words, and unclear sounds resulting from poor equipment were the primary listening challenges perceived by the students. Besides, the overall results of the study would like to suggest the solutions related to the listening challenges encountered by students. The findings suggest that taking notes, vocabularies collection and a lot of practice are the solutions to overcome the challenges in Academic Listening Classes. Eventually, it is hoped that this study helps ED-UKSW students and EFL students in related contexts to develop their learning strategies during listening processes, so they can overcome their listening challenges in other similar listening classes. Finally, the study proposed practical recommendations for EFL teachers and researchers to deal with the challenges in Academic Listening classes.

Keywords: *academic listening class, challenges in academic listening, listening ability.*